



Employee News

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development:

1-888-WORKONE (967-5663)

www.IN.gov/dwd

Available to assist with job search concerns. Web site resources include "Career Planing and Training" and "Job Fair Listings."

Customer Self Service System for Job Seekers:

<https://cs3.dwd.state.in.us/regwl/default.asp>

Free service links you to job opportunities across Indiana and neighboring states. Your information is cross-referenced with thousands of job openings. Operated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

America's Job Bank:

www.ajb.dni.us

Nation's largest pool of active job opportunities. Post your resume to employers across the country. Operated by the US Department of Labor and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Ivy Tech State College:

1-888-IVY-LINE (489-5463)

www.ivytec.in.us

Indiana's third largest public higher education system, with 23 campuses statewide.

Former Muscatatuck Residents Pleased with Community Living

New Indiana University survey documents attitudes on community life

Over 70% of former Muscatatuck State Developmental Center residents and their family members who responded to a new survey are "pleased" or "very pleased" with their lives since leaving the southeastern Indiana facility for the developmentally disabled.

The survey - the Muscatatuck Family follow-up Survey - was conducted by Indiana University's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community in early 2002. Respondents included 41 people with disabilities, or their family members or guardians, who had left the facility to live in Indiana communities.

"Overall, we learned that families were satisfied with Muscatatuck, but once they left the facility they were even more pleased with community life," said Dr. Teresa Grossi, lead author of the survey. Community life provided the former Muscatatuck residents with the opportunities to go to the YMCA, shop for groceries, eat out, and participate in leisure activities, the survey report notes.

Other results of the Survey include:

- 3 times as many family members see loved ones more as opposed to less, after leaving the facility (56% to 19%).

- 2 times as many family members are "very pleased" with their loved one's life after leaving the facility vs. before the move (39% to 17%).
- 2/3 of family members (66%) were "pleased" or "very pleased" with Muscatatuck services. More were "pleased" or "very pleased" with services in the community (71%).
- When specifically asked about "differences in quality of loved one's life" after leaving the facility 71% were "pleased" or "very pleased" with the difference, 25% were "uncertain" and under 5% were "worried" or "very worried."

"On the whole, the results are very encouraging," said John Hamilton, Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. "This survey confirms our belief that people with disabilities do well when they have the opportunity to live in the community."

MEETING INFORMATION

The time and location of the next meeting of the **Southeast Regional Project Team** will be announced in a future edition.

Employee Resource Center

- The Bloomington Hospital and Healthcare System (BHHS) serves nine counties throughout south central Indiana with two hospitals, three continuing care facilities and affiliated comprehensive services. Search current job openings on their web site at www.bhhs.org; be sure to click on "Career Opportunities." Employees of BHHS qualify for educational support loans and tuition reimbursement. Non-employees may also seek student education loans, where BHHS pays for the last year of schooling in a health-related field, in exchange for hospital employment upon degree completion. The site also offers a Healthcare Careers Guidebook Employment related contact information: BHHS Human Resources at: Bloomington Hospital, P.O. Box 1149, 601 W. Second Street, Bloomington, IN 47402, or 812-353-9535, 1-800-354-0561, FAX: 812-353-5447, or e-mail: careers@bloomhealth.org.
- New classes are starting at MSDC. Classes--including Basic Electricity (at Ivy Tech, Columbus), Phlebotomy Class, Medical Terminology, and Computer repair-- are just beginning or will start soon. For more information call, 812/346-4401 X 1285.
- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development web site, www.in.gov/dwd, also has excellent advice on strategies for job searching and placement. Topics addressed include:
 - Identifying potential employers
 - Resume writing and structure
 - Approaching potential employers and networking
 - Interviewing skills
 - Negotiating a job offer
 - Starting a new job
- Interested in completing your work toward a high school diploma using the ease and accessibility of the Internet? Then visit www.mindquest.org. Mindquest is a unique way for adults and young adults to complete a diploma from home, anytime of the day or night, through the Internet. It is the first online program designed expressly for adults and young adults who want to complete a regular high school diploma, issued by a public high school. Mindquest students fulfill the requirements for graduation through a combination of completing Mindquest courses and projects; documenting prior learning from other schools or from significant life and work experiences; and participating in concurrent learning.
- For career planning and training advice, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development web site (http://www.in.gov/dwd/career_planning2.shtm) has information on what to consider when incorporating career plans into busy lifestyles. Also visit www.careercity.com, an online resource for career management, providing in-depth information on everything from your interests to what to do after receiving a job offer.
- The Indiana Career and Post-secondary Advancement Center web site has information on regional career trends. Click on "Indiana Regional Career Information," (<http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/careers/regional>), to see which careers offer the most opportunity for job openings throughout the Southeast region. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development divided Indiana into 12 Workforce Investment Planning Regions. These regions are based on economic activity and commuting patterns. You can click on the table or the map of Indiana to learn more about careers in each region. Click on the link for a popular career in the region and the site gives you a job summary which includes duties and necessary skills, average wages for Indiana versus the national average, and an outlook for the occupation stating the rate of job growth and the expected number of openings in that field over a ten-year period.

As of April 25th, the training fund has disbursed \$106,200.36 on behalf of 237 employees. Employees are taking advantage of the variety of courses being offered at the facility itself including Medical Technology (35 students the majority of whom received a "B" or an "A"), Basic Computer Skills (training on Microsoft Word and basic keyboarding skills), and conversational Spanish (12 students).

INTERNET ACCESS RESOURCE CENTER

In recent months both the Family and Employee Newsletters have listed places in Southeastern Indiana where the Internet could be accessed for free. This month we list a variety of disability-specific resources that are available on-line.

The Arc

www.thearc.org

The Arc is a national organization with state and county chapters dedicated to helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc, founded in 1950, helps prepare adults for employment, find job placements, teach independent living skills and other activities. Listed below are the State ARC office and the Jennings County office, just two of the 40+ ARC offices statewide. Go to: www.thearc.org/chapters/indtomn.htm for a complete listing of ARC offices in Indiana.

The Arc of Indiana

22 East Washington St. Ste 210
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 977-2375

Jennings County Association for Retarded Citizens

PO Box 411
Columbus, IN 47202
Phone: (812) 372-0610

Goodwill Industries International

www.goodwill.org

Goodwill Industries International is a network of 209 community-based, autonomous member organizations that serves people with workplace disadvantages and disabilities by providing job training and employment services, as well as job placement opportunities and post-employment support. With locations in the United States, Canada and 22 other countries, Goodwill helps people overcome barriers to employment and become independent members of their communities. Their programs are funded through the sale of donated clothing and household goods at any of their 1,900 retail stores. Nearly 86% of their revenues goes directly to community services and job training and placement. For more information please visit the website listed or contact the regional office near you.

Bridgepointe Goodwill Industries and Easter Seal Society

1329 Applegate Lane
Clarksville, IN 47129
Phone: (812) 283-7908
Fax: (812) 283-6248

NAMI: National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

www.nami.org/history.htm

NAMI is a nonprofit, grassroots, self-help, support and advocacy organization of consumers, families and friends of people with severe mental illnesses. The central NAMI office for the state can be contacted for regional offices in Southern Indiana at:

NAMI of Indiana

PO Box 22697
2601 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Or call 1-800-950-NAMI

Protection & Advocacy: The Nation's Disability Rights Network

www.protectionandadvocacy.com

Protection & Advocacy, P&A, is a nationwide network of congressionally mandated, legally-based disability rights agencies. P&A agencies have the authority to provide legal representation and other advocacy services, under all federal and state laws, to all people with disabilities. P&A's monitor, investigate and attempt to remedy adverse conditions within state care. P&A works to help all people of disability exercise self determination and choice and have equality of opportunity and full participation.

Disability Resources Monthly (DRM) Guide to: Disability Resources on the Internet

www.disabilityresources.org

Disability Resources promotes and improves awareness, availability and accessibility of information that can help people with disabilities live, learn, love, work and play independently. They disseminate information about books, pamphlets, magazines, newsletters, videos, databases, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, telephone hotlines and on-line services that provide free, inexpensive or hard-to-find information to help people with disabilities live independently.

Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH employees fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:
www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

Secretary, FSSA
402 W. Washington St.,
Room W461
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088
Attn: MSDC/MSH

or email:

OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:

1-800-903-9822

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

Family and Employee News Now Available On-Line

Both the *Family News* and *Employee News* newsletters will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Providers sought to build community-based homes in Jennings County area

Ten homes to serve four people each could create 150 local jobs

Proposals to create ten new community-based homes to provide care for Hoosiers with exceptional medical needs are being solicited, John Hamilton, Family and Social Services secretary announced recently.

"We are committed to serving Hoosiers with developmental disabilities with the fullest services possible in community-based settings whenever we can," said Hamilton. "We know it is not the brick walls of an institution that provide excellent care - it is committed, caring, well-trained staff. We know many staff with those skills are in the Jennings County area."

State officials plan to close the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center and ensure that new group homes and other appropriate placements are available. The center is home to 200 residents, and FSSA is committed to creating community-based options for as many of them as possible.

A request for proposals to private providers to build 10 community-based homes, each to provide care for four consumers with exceptional medical needs, has been distributed. The request calls for the community-based homes to be built in the Jennings County area. Once built, the homes would employ a total of approximately 150 people. Proposals are due back to FSSA later this month.

"Across the country, states are heeding the words of families, advocates, and federal court decisions which all agree that everyone

should have the opportunity to live in the least restrictive setting possible," Hamilton said. "It's the right thing to do."

Hamilton also emphasized that the oversight FSSA and other state agencies provide to ensure appropriate care is provided continues after placement in the community. FSSA staff conduct follow-up inspection visits after one week and again in 30 days, once someone moves from an institution to a community setting. Each individual has case management to work with FSSA and provider staff on an on-going basis to ensure that the individual's plan of care is followed. Providers must also report any problems or incidents to FSSA.

In addition, a community support outreach team is being put in place with professionals who will be available to residents, providers and medical teams to ensure the continued well being and safety of those in community-based care.

"I am pleased the state has decided to put these new group homes in place in the Jennings County area," said state Rep. Mark Lytle. "I am committed, along with families and staff, to ensuring the health and safety of the most medically fragile residents now at Muscatatuck. I understand that these homes will have 24-hour nursing coverage and the appropriate supports necessary to meet the needs of the residents. We will welcome these 150 job opportunities into our community."